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Share the Blame for Cuba

Senator Fulbright concludes that the Cuban operation was a mistake for which there was collective responsibility in the CIA, the Defense and State Depts. and the White House.

He might have added the Cuban exiles, who for two years would not agree among themselves upon central leadership and still are divided.

The great error was that after Castro had bellowed for months that an invasion was coming from the U.S., he finally was fed a handful of men which he could call an invasion force and quickly defeat.

It was a mere probe, a deliberately advertised invitation to the people to revolt.

It was obvious long ago that no minor thrust would create a rebellion. It was predicted here as well as in many other places that anything less than a major, successful invasion would backfire disastrously.

But the Cuban exiles wanted to go in and were given aid which was not concealed.

Now the CIA is being made a scapegoat for troubles which Senator Fulbright attributes to many sources.

There is discussion of removing from the CIA the duties of conducting undercover warfare and putting them under the Defense Dept. Even if this job is taken from CIA, there is danger in having the Defense Dept. assume it because that could be considered direct action by our military forces.

Fulbright wants a watchdog Congressional committee over CIA, while President Kennedy is putting new emphasis on the long-established permanent board of private citizens which monitors intelligence activities.

President Eisenhower, who established the board, opposed a committee. On the other hand, he has greater reason or right to be inside of such activities than the representatives of the people, provided they are tight-lipped.

The need for change in the present CIA setup does not loom as large as the need for wiser use of its talents.

There may be some eventual profit in the Cuba lesson, but anticipation of a cure is like expecting full recovery from an amputation.